



FISH AND GAME NEWS

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2010/2011 Waterfowl Hunting Opportunities for Eden Landing Ecological Reserve

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) today announced waterfowl hunting opportunities for 2010-2011 at Eden Landing Ecological Reserve in Hayward. The reserve is composed of former industrial salt ponds now managed by DFG as low-salinity waterbird habitat. Access to ELER for waterfowl hunting will be open only on the dates listed below. There is no fee for these hunts. Access for 100 hunters will be permitted on a first-come, first-served basis for each one-day hunt.

2010 hunt dates:

- Saturday, Nov. 27: Check-in at 5 a.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 2: Check-in at 5 a.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 11: Check-in at 5 a.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 16: Check-in at 5 a.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 19: Check-in at 5 a.m.

2011 hunt dates:

- Saturday, Jan. 8: Check-in at 5:30 a.m.
- Thursday, Jan. 13: Check-in at 5:30 a.m.
- Saturday, Jan. 22: Check-in at 5:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, Jan. 25: Check-in at 5:30 a.m.

Junior hunters must possess a California junior hunting license and must be accompanied by an adult (hunter or non-hunter). Vehicles may be driven on designated levees to reach various locations or to launch boats for waterfowl hunting and are only allowed on the hunt dates. To attend, hunters need to arrive at the reserve and provide valid hunting licenses with stamps to check in with DFG staff. Hunters will also be required to check out and allow game to be inspected for use in evaluating hunter success and harvest data. Hunters will receive additional information, including maps, when checking in for a hunt. Some changes have been made for the 2010-2011 season, including additional closed areas and a 25-shell limit in the field. DFG has continued to make improvements, including graveled roads, improved pond access and refurbished blinds.

A small boat or canoe is recommended to access ponds and blinds, as well as navigable sloughs, and a dog for retrieval is also strongly recommended.

Directions: From I-880, exit at Alvarado Blvd., and go west down Alvarado, turn right onto Union City Blvd., left onto Bettencourt Rd. (sign for Union Sanitary District), left on Whipple Rd., right on Horner St., then right on Veasy St. and enter at the yellow gate to check in.

Formal plans for public access opportunities at the reserve in addition to hunting are being developed as part of the South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Project (www.southbayrestoration.org).



DFG Newsroom

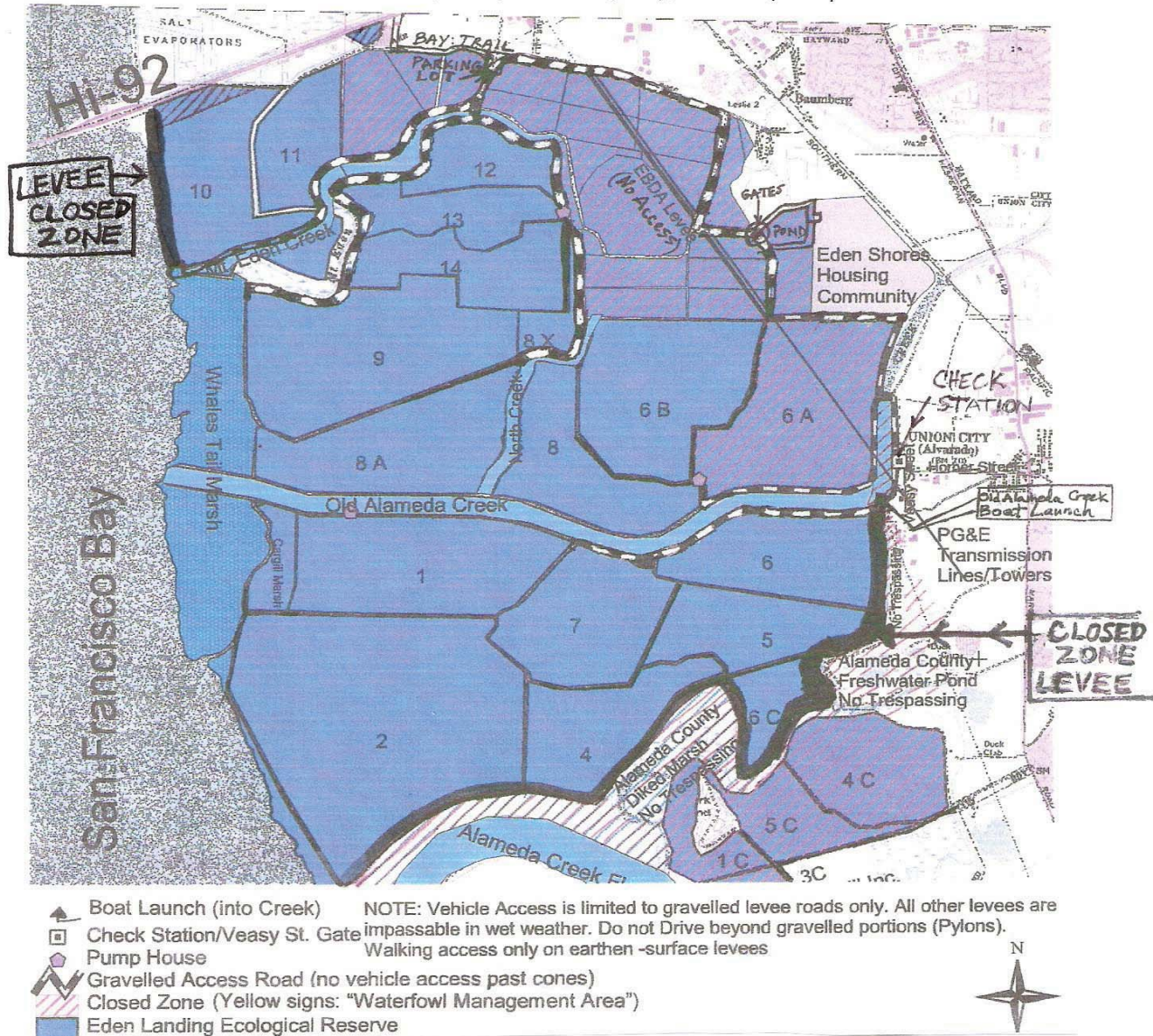
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California Department of Fish and Game Eden Landing Ecological Reserve 2010-11 Waterfowl Hunting Season

Hunters must Check In & Out. Controlled Access on Hunt Days only

2010: Nov. 27 (Sat.) Dec. 2 (Thurs), Dec. 11 (Sat.), Dec. 16 (Thurs.), Dec. 19 (Sun.)
2011: Jan. 8 (Sat.), Jan. 13 (Thurs), Jan. 22 (Sat.), Jan. 25 (Tues)



Eden Landing Ecological Reserve: Information, Area Rules, Regulations

What is the Eden Landing Ecological Reserve and what are the management goals?

The Department of Fish & Game (DFG) owns and manages the Eden Landing Ecological Reserve (ELER), approximately 6400 acres along the east San Francisco Bay shoreline within the City of Hayward. The area was formerly owned and managed by Cargill Salt Co. as salt production facilities. In 1996, 835-acres were acquired; construction activities are complete, while passive restoration continues. In 2003, the State and federal government, with contributions from private foundations, purchased 15,100-acres of salt ponds and other lands from Cargill, approximately 5500 acres of which are part of ELER. Funds for the acquisition and restoration were provided by the Wildlife Conservation Board, including bond funds (Proposition 50).

The area is managed for resident and migratory waterbirds and tidal marsh habitats and species. The long-term goals are to restore and enhance wetland habitats for migratory birds and threatened and endangered species, provide for flood management, and provide wildlife-oriented public access and recreation opportunities. A segment of the Bay Trail opened in 2008. To access the Eden Landing Bay Trail, take the Clawiter Rd/Eden Landing Rd. exit from Highway 92, and go south of the highway on Eden Landing Rd. to the end, near the intersection of Arden Rd.

Construction activities are underway as part of Phase One of the South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Project (www.southbayrestoration.org). Ponds 8A, 9 and 8X are expected to be restored to tidal action in Fall, 2011. Ponds 14, 13 and 12 will be reconfigured for waterbirds.

One of the management goals for this property includes providing controlled public access opportunities, including waterfowl hunting. DFG's ponds will be open for the special waterfowl hunts on dates designated each year. See also Area Rules, Regulations for ELER for details.

How do I get to the Eden Landing Ecological Reserve?

ELER is in the City of Hayward, south of Highway 92, west of I-880. Hunting access to ELER is from Veasy Street, off of Horner St. in Union City next to Old Alameda Creek. Hunt Directions:

Take I-880 to Alvarado Blvd. exit, go west on Alvarado from I-880 approximately 2 miles, then turn right onto Union City Blvd, then less than 0.5 mile turn left onto Bettencourt Road, then left on Whipple Road. Turn right on Horner Street and then right on Veasy Street to the yellow gate.

Year round access to the Eden Landing Bay Trail is open. Take the Clawiter Rd/Eden Landing Rd. exit from Highway 92, go south of highway on Eden Landing Rd. to the end, near Arden Rd.

What's new at Eden Landing Ecological Reserve for the 2010-11 Season?

The first year of two consecutive years' construction activities will be completed prior to this year's hunting season, implementing Phase One of the South Bay Salt Ponds restoration project. This includes partial removal of levees around Ponds 8A, 9 and 8X and reconstruction of levees around Ponds 14, 13, 12 and 10. This work is in preparation for complete breaching of Ponds 8A, 9 and 8X to restore tidal marsh in 2011 and to allow reconfigured Ponds 12, 13 and 14 to be managed when completed. The ponds will be managed in 2010-11 similar to previous years.

Additional areas have been designated and signed as closed zones, to address on-going hunter trespass and related issues. The eastern levee of Ponds 5, 6, 6C, adjacent to Alameda County land and the bayfront levee of Pond 10 is now closed for hunting from the levee. Blinds in Ponds

5, 6, 6C and 10 remain open, as well as other levees where DFG property is on both sides of the levee. Vehicular access from Veasy St. to northern and southern ponds is open only on graveled levees, and additional blinds have been constructed or maintained in the ponds. Boat launching and parking areas are improved.

Area Rules in 2010-11 include a 25-shell limit in the field (on your person); you are allowed to retrieve more shells from your vehicle or leave the site to purchase more and return. This is similar to existing Refuge rules and how similar hunt programs are managed. This restriction is intended to encourage a high-quality hunting experience, and discourage excessive shooting, which affects nearby hunters and neighbor relations.

A blind in Pond 5C may be reserved for mobility-impaired (handicapped) hunters with appropriate ID, by special arrangement with DFG prior to hunt dates or at check in, as available. Handicapped hunters must check in with DFG at the Veasy St. gate prior to hunting and must check out with DFG after the hunt, as this area requires alternative access.

What time will the entry gate and check station open?

The entry gate and check station will typically open two hours before shoot time to allow time for hunters to check in, drive/walk to open ponds/levees, set up any decoys, etc.

Are all of the salt ponds and marsh areas open for the hunt? What restrictions are in place?

DFG is opening only certain areas within ELER to waterfowl hunting. Hunting access for waterfowl species is restricted at the salt ponds owned by DFG and will be open for the special waterfowl hunts only on the dates designated. Access and hunting is only allowed during those dates. The property boundary of the ELER is posted. The eastern-most marsh lands adjacent to the Alameda Creek Federal Flood Control Channel ("J" Ponds) and east of DFG's ponds are owned by Alameda County. The ponds south of Alameda Creek are owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and remain under Cargill's management for salt making; these areas should be considered private property. Trespassing is prohibited. A map will be provided on hunt days.

Hunters may possess only approved nontoxic shot while in the field. Firearms must be kept unloaded until hunter is within the designated hunt area. A 25-shell limit (on-person) is enforced. Possession of a firearm or accessing the ELER is prohibited, other than a firearm legal for waterfowl hunting on the specified date.

Where can I hunt?

Open Zones for the hunt areas are posted and are shown on the season's map provided upon check-in. Do not trespass or hunt in closed areas; you may retrieve downed birds provided guns are left in the legal hunting area. Closed Zones are designated because of management activities, proximity to homes or trails, access difficulties or they are not suitable habitat for waterfowl or hunting. Do not trespass into the adjacent marsh areas outside of DFG's property to hunt in marshes, channels and ponds south and east of ELER which are owned and managed by Alameda County. Fremont, Alviso and Ravenswood Ponds that are part of Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge are open to hunting. Contact USFWS for information.

Is permission or check-in necessary for hunting access? What if I'm not hunting?

All access to the property is restricted, no access is allowed anytime without written permission. Permission to access ELER on designated hunt dates is provided by DFG at check-in. A guest may accompany a hunter and must also check in.

Can I use a boat or a dog for hunting purposes?

Yes. Small watercraft are best to use to access the ponds. A gas motor is allowed, although caution is suggested as there are unmarked obstacles and shallow pond areas could result in propeller damage. There is one concrete ramp boat launch at ELER on Old Alameda Creek, where a small boat can be launched at higher tides. For hunting in ponds, hunters will need to launch boats into ponds off of the levee roads. The use of a dog for retrieval purposes is also recommended. Pond depths vary and you will need to portage your small boat over the levees and berms separating the ponds to get to ponds further from the access levees. A boat or a dog for retrieval is highly recommended for ELER, as it may not be safe to enter the ponds and wade in for retrieval due to unmarked hazards such as ditches and channels, and because the pond bottoms are varied and unconsolidated in many areas. Dogs are allowed only for hunting purposes.

Can I get access or hunt prior to the special hunt dates?

No. ELER is closed to public access except for the special hunt dates and use of the Bay Trail and Staging Area along the northern perimeter. Waterfowl species are the only species that can be legally hunted on the ELER. A maximum of 100 hunters will be allowed access on the designated dates. These restrictions are necessary for DFG to provide a controlled access, high-quality waterfowl hunting opportunity, given DFG's staff and funding limitations.

What type of access is allowed?

Drive-on access to ELER will only be allowed on graveled levee roads, as designated. Access within the ponds by boat will be allowed. The areas open for hunting may be accessed by boats and portaging over the levees and berms dividing the ponds, or by walking on levees beyond the open, graveled access levees. No hunting or shotguns are allowed in Closed Zones.

Can I ride ATV's or bicycles in the Eden Landing Ecological Reserve hunt areas?

No. Use of bicycles is prohibited except along the Bay Trail. You cannot access the property except by on-road motor vehicle along the designated gravel access levees, by launching a boat or by walking on the site. Hunters and guests need to remain on existing, graveled levee roads along Old Alameda Creek while driving the property, or may operate a small boat in the ponds or walk on the levees past the allowed driving access end points (non-graveled roads). We recommend hunters bring small boats to access blinds in the ponds or access the bay within the hunt area.

What species can be hunted and when?

Hunting for all species other than waterfowl is prohibited at ELER. Waterfowl species commonly seen in the area include mallard, Northern shoveler and pintail, ruddy duck, canvasback, widgeon, gadwall, scaup and Canada goose, among many others. Only waterfowl species including ducks and geese as specified in the regulations may be hunted on specified hunt dates.

Can I hunt other species, such as upland game on Eden Landing Ecological Reserve?

No, you may only hunt waterfowl. Upland game or other species may not be hunted. Waterfowl hunting is the only legal hunting on ELER. The area is also managed for several sensitive waterbird species and habitats. Waterfowl hunting is the only use consistent with the goals of the ELER, and other hunting could result in disturbance to and take of sensitive species.

Where do I get permission to access ELER and how much does it cost?

Hunters are granted entry by checking in with DFG staff at the Veasy St. Check Station. There is no cost for the hunt, as long as the hunter has a valid license and stamps. A hunter may take a non-hunting guest. Junior hunters must possess a junior hunting license and must be accompanied by an adult.

Hunters must remove all decoys and other personal property (boats, motors, oars and other boating equipment) from ELER by one hour after shoot time ends. All trash, including shotshell hulls must be removed.

AREA RULES INCLUDE A 25-SHELL LIMIT IN POSSESSION

Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 630 (b)(42):

Eden Landing Ecological Reserve, Alameda Co.

(A) No person shall enter this reserve except on designated trails without written permission or by posted notice by the regional manager.

(B) No person shall walk, or ride horses or bicycles on roads except on designated trails.

(C) Dogs are restricted to designated trails, and designated hunting areas during the waterfowl season. Dogs must be on a leash at all times other than dogs used for hunting in designated hunting areas. In designated hunting areas, dogs may be off leash only for hunting during waterfowl season and must be under voice control at all times.

(D) Waterfowl hunting shall be permitted, but only at such times and in specific areas as designated by the department. Waterfowl shall be taken in accordance with the general waterfowl regulations.

(E) No plinking, firearms practice or target shooting is allowed within the ecological reserve.

(F) Fishing shall be permitted from boats and from shore, but only at such times and in specific areas as designated by the department.

(G) Notwithstanding the provisions of section (a) (2), commercial bait fishing for brine shrimp may occur only at such times and in specific areas as designated by the department.

(H) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) (1), (2), (3), (5), (6), (8), (10), (12), and (20), the department may issue permits to conduct biological research or monitoring compatible with the primary purposes of the reserve.

For additional information, please contact the reserve manager:

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